

# 8. Secure Medicine Return: Presentation

Taylor Watson, LHWMP Staff



**King County**

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
**Solid Waste Division**

Waste  
Prevention

Resource  
Recovery

Waste  
Disposal



# King County Secure Medicine Return Regulations

A sustainably financed, county-wide secure medicine return system

Taylor Watson  
Program Implementation Manager  
Secure Medicine Return  
Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County

April 15, 2016

# Risks from Medicines in the Home

## Drug Misuse and Environmental Impacts



- Unused, expired, and leftover drugs that accumulate in homes increase the risk of drug abuse, overdose and preventable poisonings



- Unwanted medicines flushed down toilets and sinks or thrown in the trash can end up in the environment

# Proper Disposal Reduces Risks

Secure Medicine Take-Back Programs Protect Public Health



- Reduces the amount of drugs available for abuse, preventable poisonings and overdose
- Keeps waste medicine out of the environment
- Is a key part of a comprehensive approach

# Secure Medicine Return Regulations

King County Board of Health Chapter 11.50



- King County Board of Health passed Secure Medicine Return Regulations on June 20, 2013
- Regulations establish an industry-funded product stewardship model
- Program will collect and safely dispose of unwanted medicines from residents of the county

# Secure Medicine Return Regulations

## Product Stewardship Model



- System of convenient and equitable collection
- Funded, operated and promoted by drug manufacturers
- Collection sites participate voluntarily
- Medicines are properly destroyed
- Cannot charge residents a fee when purchasing or returning medicines

# Secure Medicine Return Regulations

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program



- Cost reimbursement for up to 400 drop-boxes
- Program oversight to ensure compliance
- Issue civil penalties for non-compliance through Seattle-King County Public Health

# Secure Medicine Return Regulations

## Medicines Accepted

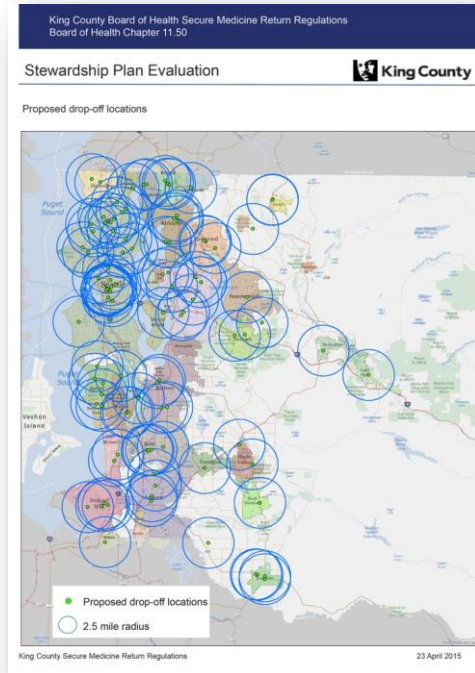


- Prescription and non-prescription (over-the-counter)
- Brand name and generic
- Sold in any form
- Does not include over-the-counter medicines regulated as cosmetics or supplements



# Secure Medicine Return Regulations

## Reasonable and Equitable Access



- One drop-off site in every city, town or unincorporated community service area
- One additional site for every 30,000 residents
- Geographically distributed providing reasonable and equitable access

# Secure Medicine Return Regulations

## Differentially-abled and Homebound Residents



- Mail-back envelopes are available to residents who are differentially-abled or homebound
- Envelopes are available by request or through home care provider
- No cost to the residents to use mail-back envelopes

# Secure Medicine Return Regulations

## Collection Events



- Periodic collection events provide collection in underserved areas
- Events will be held twice a year
- No cost to residents to dispose of medicines at a collection event

# Secure Medicine Return Regulations

Program is Expected to be Available this Summer



- Residents can properly dispose of their unwanted medicines
- Collection will be available throughout the county
- Collection services will be promoted through stewardship website, toll-free number and print materials
- King County will also promote services to residents

# For More Information

Visit our website: [www.KingCountySecureMedicineReturn.org](http://www.KingCountySecureMedicineReturn.org)



## Contact:

Taylor Watson  
Program Implementation Manager  
Secure Medicine Return

[Taylor.watson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Taylor.watson@kingcounty.gov)

206-263-1880

## Receive Email Updates:

[www.bit.ly/SecureMeds](http://www.bit.ly/SecureMeds)